Please replace paragraph 2 on page 18 which continues onto page 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

After separation on an 8% SDS-PAGE gel, the proteins were electrophoretically transferred to IMMOBILON-P membranes (Millipore Corp., Bedford, MA) using methanol transfer buffer (20 mM Tris pH 8.3, 150 mM glycine, 0.5% SDS, 20% methanol). Following the transfer, the membranes were blocked for two hours in low salt TBST buffer (20 mM Tris-HCL, pH 8.0, 100 mM NaCl, 1.0% Tween-20 detergent) plus 5% non-fat dried milk (Lucerne). After blocking the membranes were incubated for 45 minutes with the IIH6 monoclonal antibody (primary antibody against α-dystroglycan, obtained from Dr. Kevin Campbell, University of Iowa) diluted in low salt TBST plus 5% dried milk. The primary antibody was diluted 1:20 from a concentrated (8X) stock of hybridoma supernatent. After incubation with the primary antibody, the membranes were washed with low-salt TBST and incubated 45 minutes with an horse radish peroxidase (HRP) conjugated secondary antibody (anti-IgM Product # A 8786 from Sigma). The membranes were thoroughly washed for 1 hour after the secondary antibody and the signal detected by chemiluminescence SUPERSIGNAL substrate (Pierce, Rockford, IL) and exposure to film. α-dystroglycan that is cleaved and shed from the cell surface appears as a distinct 130 kilodalton (kD) band in the medium (Figure 1A), whereas α-dystroglycan isolated form the cell surface migrates as a broad 180 kD band (Figure 1A "Cell").

Please delete paragraph 2, which is Example 4, beginning at page 23, as it duplicates Example 4 on page 24 of the specification.

In the Claims:

Please rewrite Claim 22 as follows:

22. A method of assaying proteolysed α-dystroglycan fragments shed from a cell into blood serum comprising the steps of: